

6224.0.55.001 - Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Jun 2012

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 01/05/2013

Summary

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What is a Family?

How do we define a 'family' and what exactly are 'dependants'?



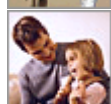
Australian Families

In June 2012, there were an estimated 6.4 million families in Australia with 19.4 million family members.



Couple Families

Of the 5.4 million couple families in Australia in June 2012, 79% had at least one partner employed.



One Parent Families

In June 2012, there were 961 thousand one parent families and 81% of these were single mothers.



Jobless Families

There were 1.3 million jobless families in June 2012 and one in every four had dependent children aged under 25 years.



Dependants aged 15 to 24

Australia had 1.4 million dependent students in June 2012.

Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia, June 2013 (cat. no. 6224.0.55.001) is expected to be released around October 2014. This will allow the 2013 estimates to be based on the most up-to-date estimated resident population (ERP). The ERP will be rebased in mid 2013 and backcast to 1991. For more information, see the feature article The 2006-2011 Intercensal Period and Revisions to Historical ERP in Australian Demographic Statistics, June 2012 (cat. no. 3101.0). After the ERP has been rebased, new estimates of households and families will be produced, and they will be used to benchmark the Families estimates. The 2013 Families product will include revised rebenchmark family estimates for previous years.

About this Release

The annual datacubes contain detailed information about labour force status and other characteristics of families using original data collected in the Labour Force Survey.

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INTRODUCTION

This publication presents information about the labour force status and characteristics of families in June 2012. Information is also provided on the number and age of children in the household.

The information in this publication was collected as part of the monthly Labour Force Survey that was conducted in June 2012. Family type has been derived from questions which establish the relationships between members of the households selected in the survey.

Relationship in household and families data collected each month in the Labour Force Survey and published in Labour Force Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) relate to the number of persons. In contrast, estimates provided in this publication relate to the number of families rather than the number of persons. Estimates are also provided for the number of children aged 0–4 years, 5–9 years and 10–14 years in families. Children are outside of the scope of the labour force survey but are included in this publication because of the focus on the labour force status of families.

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WHAT IS A FAMILY?

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WHAT IS A FAMILY?

In this publication, a family is a group of two or more people that are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering, and who usually live together in the same household. This includes all families such as newlyweds without children, same-sex partners, couples with dependants, single mothers or fathers with children, and siblings living together. At least one person in the family has to be 15 years or over. A household may contain more than one family.

FAMILY COMPOSITION

There are three main types of families: couple families, one parent families, and other families.

- Couple families are based around a couple relationship between two people who are either married or in a de facto partnership and usually resident in the same household. Couples can be same-sex or opposite-sex, and their dependants or children may also be members of the couple family if they all reside in the same household.
- One parent families are based around a person who is not in a couple relationship with anyone usually resident in the same household, but has at least one child usually resident in the household regardless of the age of the child. These households can include other related individuals. While couple families can exist without children - that is just two people living together in a couple relationship, one parent families, on the other hand, can't exist without children.
- Other families are based around family relationships that are neither couple relationships nor parent-child relationships, such as a brother and sister living together without any dependants.

In some cases, a household will contain more than one family. For example, a single mother with a baby living with her parents forms two families in the one household. The parents are one family and the daughter and her baby form another family.

WHAT IS NOT A FAMILY?

Divorced or separated parents who live alone and have children who usually live elsewhere are classified as a lone person household and not a family in the ABS definition. Even though a parent-child relationship exists - they might even have custody each weekend - if the child usually lives elsewhere the household is not classed as a family according to ABS definitions. People who live by themselves in one house while their parents live in a different house are treated the same way. Even though they are **part** of a family, unless they live in the same household they don't **form** a family for the purpose of these statistics. This is to

ensure people are only reported once. It should also reflect the usual living arrangements of the household.

People who aren't related or in a couple relationship and living in the same household, such as students sharing a flat, aren't considered to be a family unless one of the members of the household is under 15 years. In such cases, children under 15 years are considered to be dependent and so they form a child dependency relationship with the oldest member of a household (the family head), thereby forming a one parent family.

WHAT IS A DEPENDANT?

Families can be classed as having, or not having, dependants. There are two kinds of dependants: children under 15 years, and dependent students aged 15 to 24 years who are attending school or studying full-time at a tertiary education institution and living with their parents/guardians. These children are considered to be financially dependent on the parent or parents that they usually live with, which is why they are referred to as 'dependants'. However, they have to be usually living in the same household; full-time students who have left home to study and live by themselves are not considered to be part of a family, even if they are financially dependent on parents who live elsewhere.

Children aged over 15 years who are not full-time students are, for the purposes of forming a family, not considered dependent on their parents - even if they still live at home. It is also possible to have one parent families without dependants. Consider an 80 year old woman living with her 55 year old daughter, this is defined as a one parent family without dependants, even though it's not what is typically thought of when considering a single mother with a child.

It's important to consider whether children in a household are dependent on their parents when looking at these estimates, as the labour force characteristics will vary between families who have dependants and those that don't.

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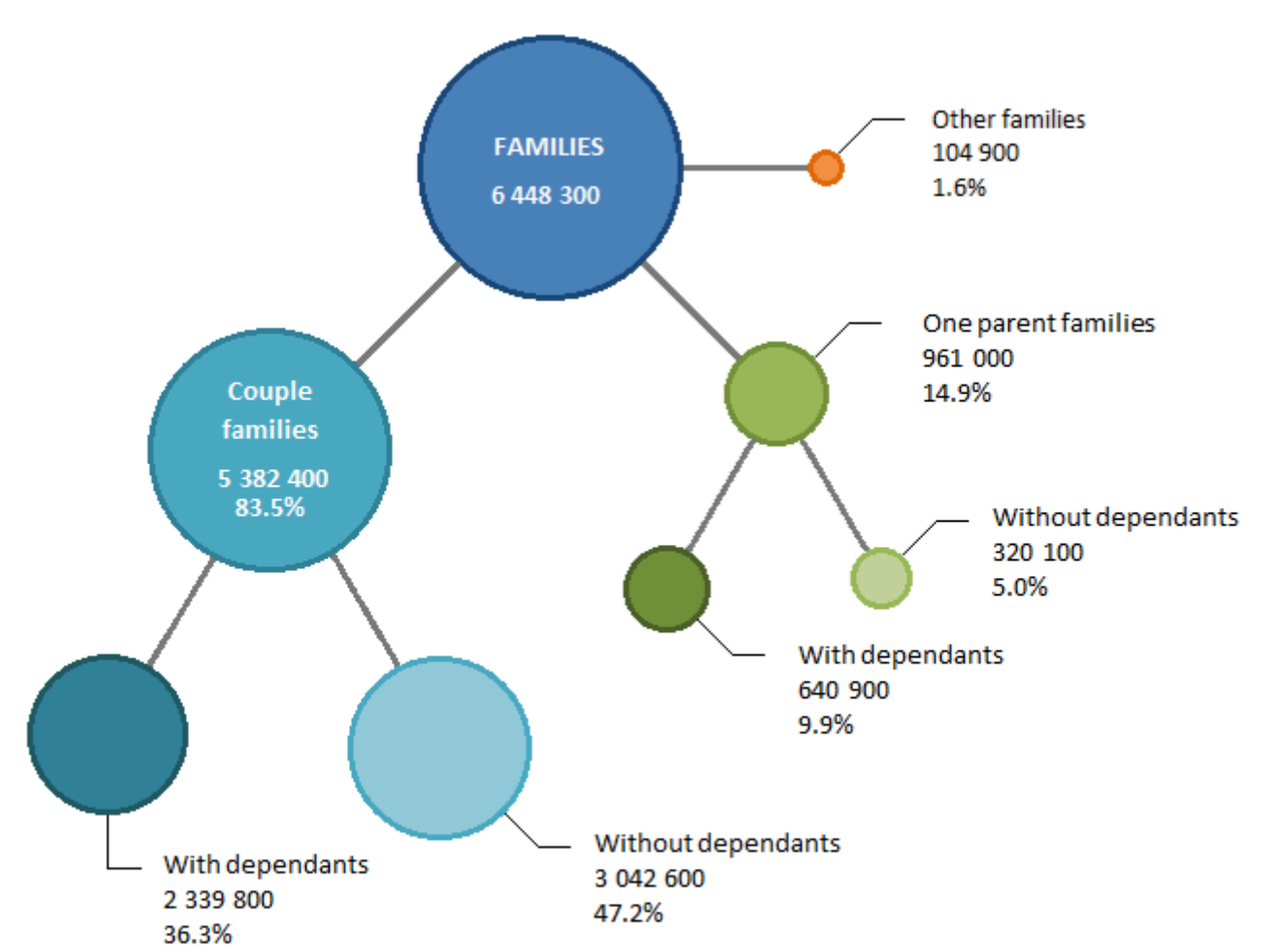
AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES

In June 2012, there were an estimated 6.4 million families living in Australia with a total of 19.4 million family members.

The vast majority of families were couple families (83%). About four in every nine couple families had dependants living with them (43%).

The next largest group were one parent families (15%) and two out of every three one parent families had dependants living with them (67%). Of the 961 thousand one parent families, 81% were single mothers.

Of all families, 80% had at least one employed family member aged 15 years and over. Some 7% of families had one or more members unemployed. Half of all families had a member who was not in the labour force (50%), while in 18% of all families every member was not in the labour force (for example, retired couples).



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COUPLE FAMILIES

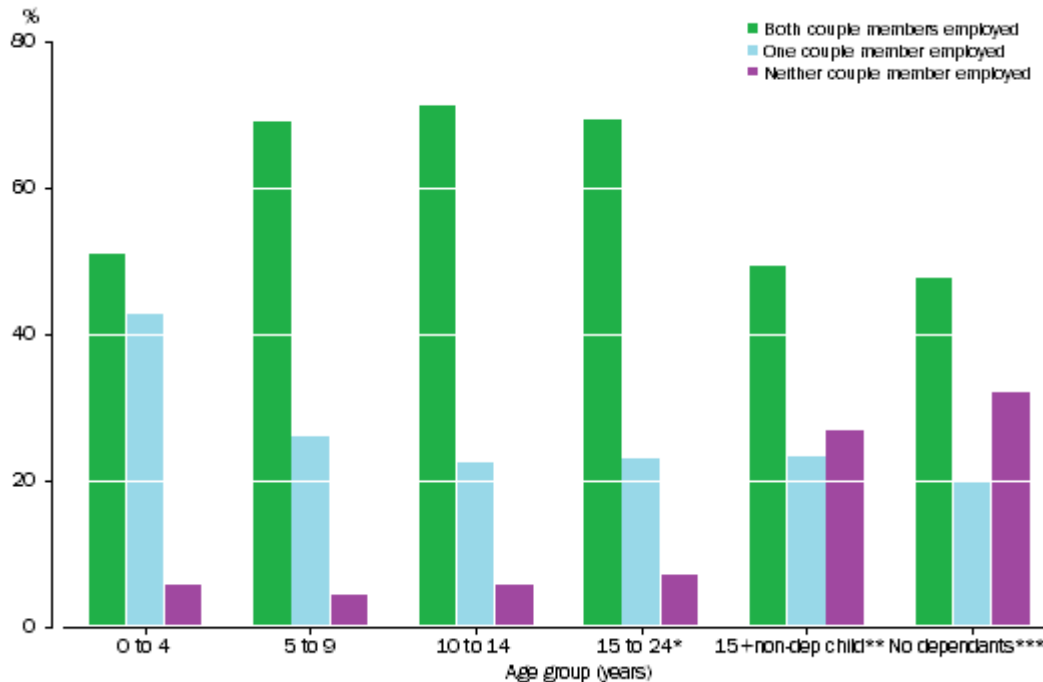
As noted in *What is a Family?*, couple families are based around a couple relationship between two people who are either married or in a de facto partnership and usually resident

in the same household. It includes couples with or without dependants, and same-sex partners.

In June 2012, there were:

- 2.3 million opposite-sex couple families with dependants
- 3 million opposite-sex couple families without dependants
- 41 thousand same-sex couple families

COUPLE FAMILIES, Employment status by age of youngest child—June 2012



* Couple family with 15 to 24 year old dependent student

** Couple family without dependants, but with children 15 years or over

*** Couple family without dependants

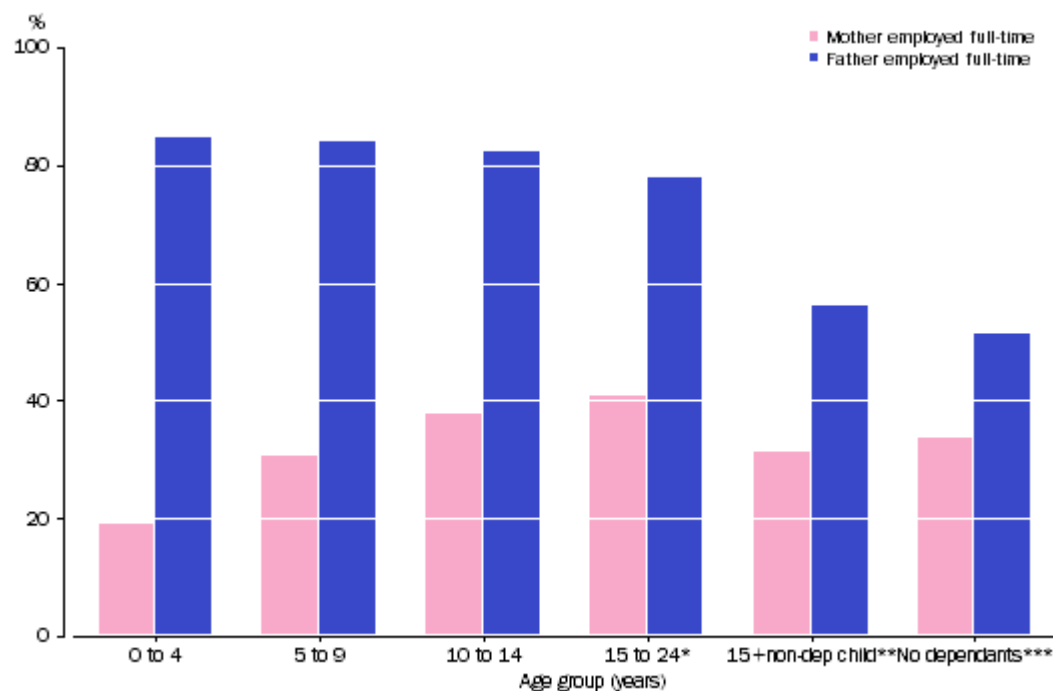
COUPLE FAMILIES WITH DEPENDANTS

The proportion of couple families with dependants in which one or both partners were employed was 93% in June 2012. The majority of couple families with dependants had both partners employed (62%).

The father was employed in 90% of all opposite-sex couples with dependants. In 92% of these families, the father was employed full-time.

The mother was employed in 67% of all opposite-sex couple families with dependants. In 44% of these families, the mother was employed full-time. The percentage of mothers employed full-time in opposite sex couple families increased with the age of the youngest dependant, from 19% for mothers of 0–4 year olds to 41% of mothers of young people aged 15–24 years.

OPPOSITE-SEX COUPLE FAMILIES, Employment status by sex by age of youngest child—June 2012



* Couple family with 15 to 24 year old dependent student

** Couple family without dependants, but with children 15 years or over

*** Couple family without dependants

COUPLE FAMILIES WITHOUT DEPENDANTS

In June 2012, 57% of couple families had no dependants. Half of all of these couple families had both members of the couple not in the labour force. These couple families will include families where both members of the couple were retired.

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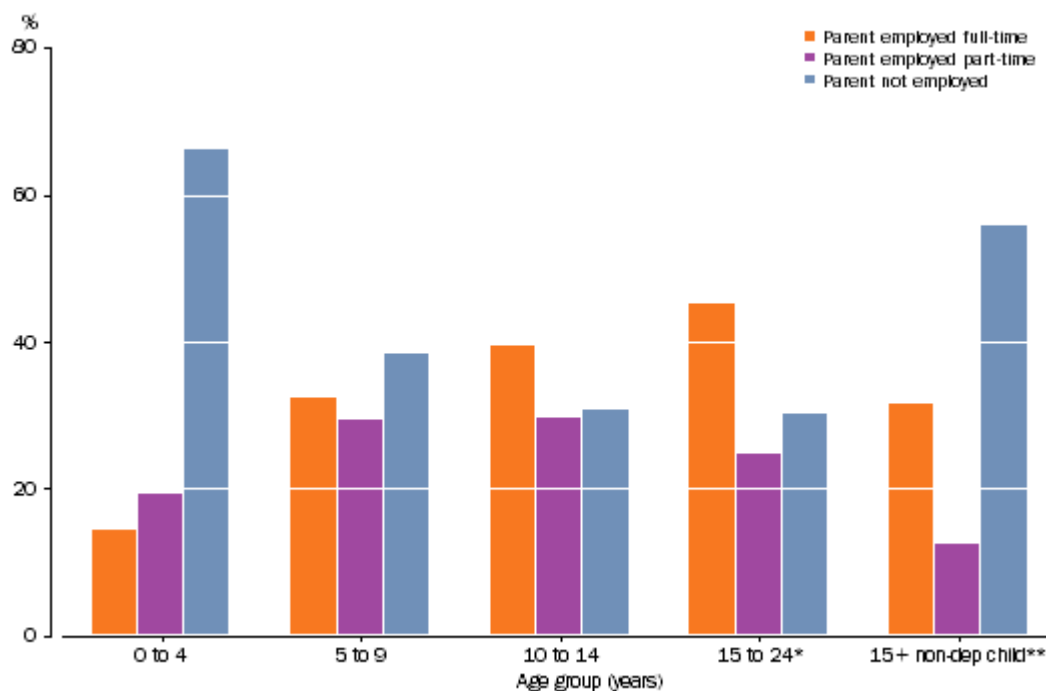
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ONE PARENT FAMILIES

In June 2012, there were 961 thousand one parent families, making up 15% of all families. About two-thirds of these one parent families (67%) had dependants living with them.

There were 780 thousand single mother families in June 2012, making up the vast majority of one parent families (81%).

ONE PARENT FAMILIES, Employment status by age of youngest child—June 2012



* One parent family with 15 to 24 years dependent student

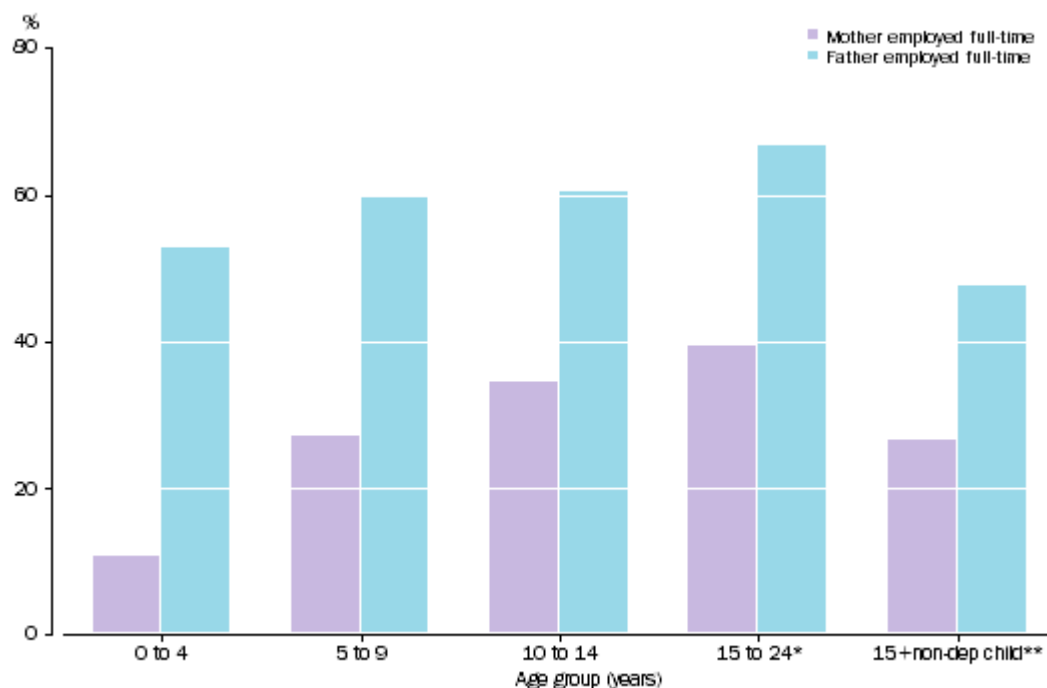
** One parent family without dependents, but with children 15 years or over

ONE PARENT FAMILIES WITH DEPENDANTS

In June 2012, there were 641 thousand one parent families with dependants, and most (84%) were single mother families. In half (50%) of one parent families with dependants, the age of the youngest child was between 0 and 9 years old.

The parent was employed in 58% of one parent families with dependants in June 2012. There were 72% of single fathers employed compared with 55% of single mothers. Employment among single parents generally increased as the age of the youngest dependant increased, with 34% of single parent families whose youngest dependant was under 5 years old having an employed parent, compared with 70% whose youngest dependant was 15-24 years old.

ONE PARENT FAMILIES, Employment status by sex by age of youngest child—June 2012



* One parent family with 15 to 24 years dependent student

** One parent family without dependents, but with children 15 years or over

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JOBLESS FAMILIES

A jobless family is a family where no persons in the family aged 15 years and over are employed. This includes dependants. In a jobless family, all of the family members are either unemployed and/or not in the labour force. Families that have no employed members but do have members that are "not determined in the scope of the labour force survey," such as having a family member who is a member of the permanent Australian defence force, are not included in the number of jobless families however they are included in the total number of families.

In June 2012, there were 1.3 million jobless families - 19% of all families. Of these, 932 thousand were jobless couple families - about one in every six couple families - and 299 thousand jobless one parent families - almost one in every three one parent families.

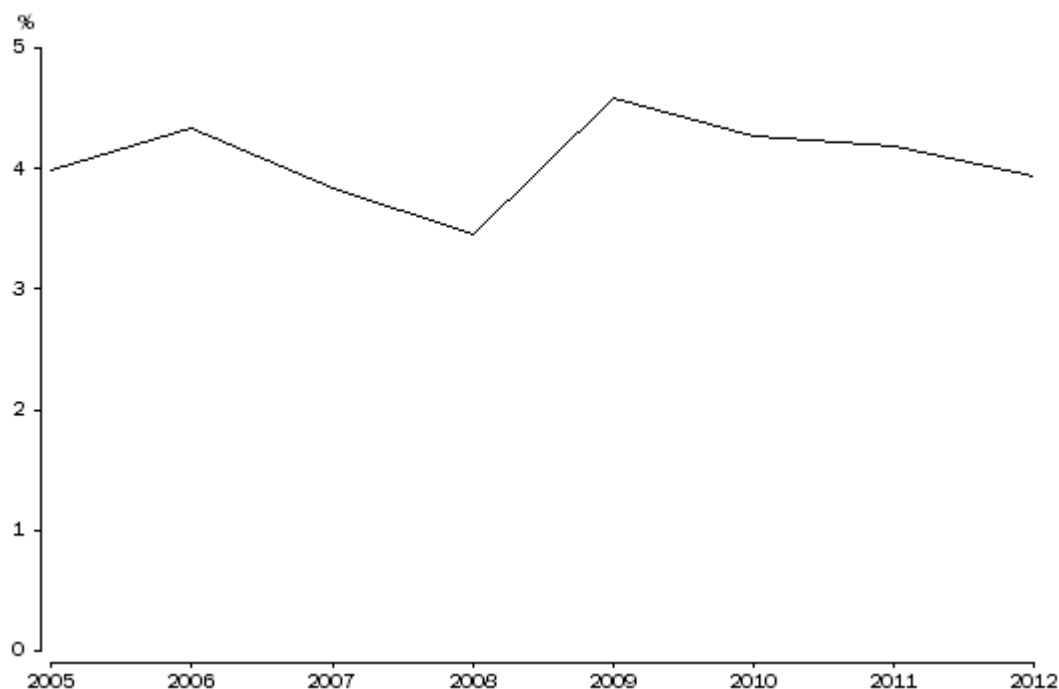
JOBLESS FAMILIES WITH DEPENDANTS

There were 315 thousand jobless families with dependants in June 2012, comprising 11% of all families with dependants. The proportion of jobless families with dependants in June 2012 has remained stable in recent years, aside from June 2009 where it dropped to 9%, from nearly 12% in 2005.

About 92 thousand couple families with dependants had all family members 15 years or over who were jobless - which was about one in every 25 couple families with dependants. Of these 86% had their youngest dependant aged 0 – 14 years and 14% had their youngest dependant a dependent student aged 15 to 24 years.

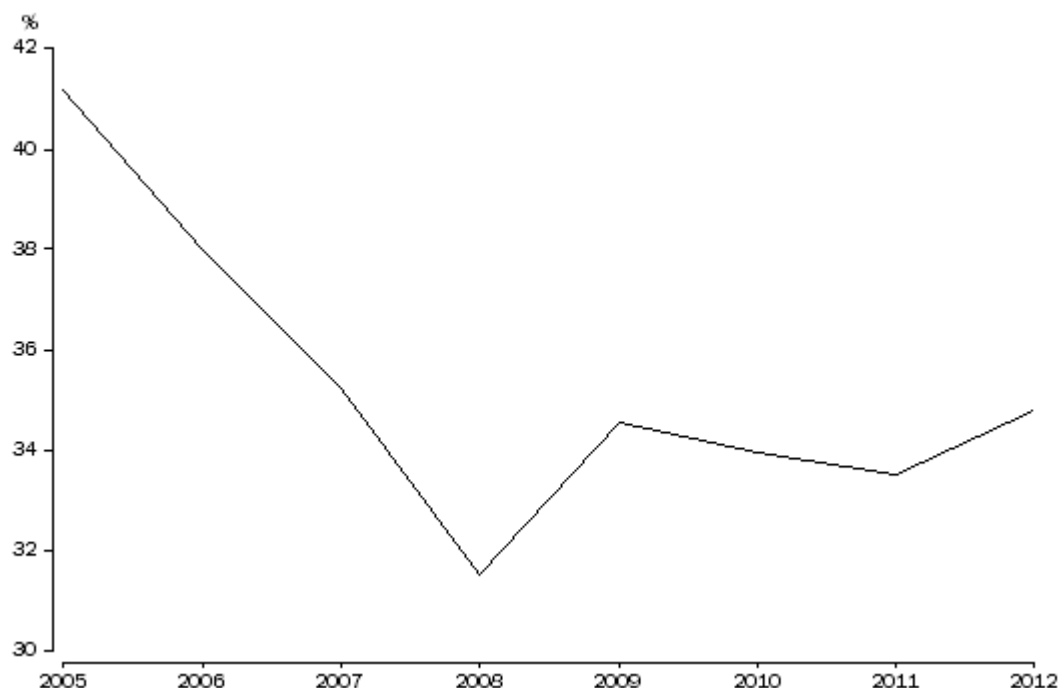
There were 167 thousand children aged 0–14 years in jobless couple families in June 2012.

COUPLE FAMILIES WITH DEPENDANTS, Proportion Jobless—2005-2012



In June 2012, there were 223 thousand jobless one parent families with dependants - about one third of all one parent families with dependants. Of these families, 89% were single mother families and 72% of jobless single mothers had children under 10 years old.

ONE PARENT FAMILIES WITH DEPENDANTS, Proportion Jobless—2005-2012



The number of children aged 0–14 years in jobless one parent families was 362 thousand in June 2012.

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DEPENDANTS AGED 15 TO 24 YEARS

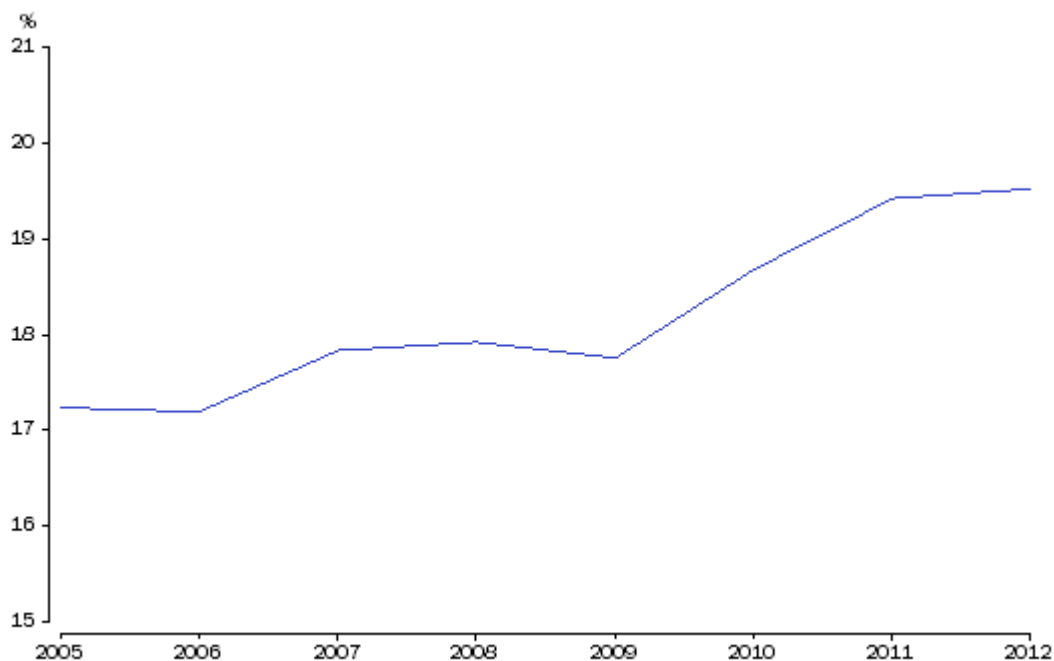
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DEPENDANTS AGED 15 TO 24 YEARS

A child aged 15-24 years is a dependant if they are aged 15-19 years and still attending school or aged 15-24 years and attending a tertiary institution full-time. They cannot be a dependant if they have a partner or child of their own usually resident in the household.

The proportion of families where the youngest dependant was aged between 15 and 24 years has increased over the past seven years, from 17% of families with dependants in 2005 to 20% in 2012. In 2012, 74% were couple families.

COUPLE AND ONE PARENT FAMILIES WITH DEPENDANTS, Age of youngest dependant 15 to 24 years—
June 2012



In 2012, there were 1.4 million dependant students aged 15-24 years attending school or studying full-time at a tertiary education institution and usually resident in the same household as their parents/guardian.

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History of Changes

This document was added or updated on 23/05/2013.

23/05/2013 An additional three data cubes and one spreadsheet have been released and provide additional data to the issue previously released in the **Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families** on 1 May 2013. The spreadsheet was previously published under **Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0).

The FA1 - Families by Family type, State, Sex, Number of family members data cube has been updated to include data for years prior to 2012.

Table 3. Labour Force in the Summary Table spreadsheet has been updated to remove Labour Force Status Not Determined from the Couple Families - Summary. Additional footnotes have also been added to provide clarification on the inclusion and exclusion of Other families in Totals.

In line with the change to remove Labour Force Status Not Determined from Couple Families with at least one or both partners employed, the '**Couple Families**' page has been updated to read 'the proportion of couple families with dependants in which one or both partners were employed was 93% in June 2012'.

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This publication, Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families (cat. no. 6224.0.55.001), is produced from data collected in the June 2012 Labour Force Survey. It includes detailed family data not featured in the monthly Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) or Labour Force Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) publications.

Since these products are all based on data collected in the Labour Force Survey, the Explanatory Notes of publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) are relevant to all three publications. Additional information is provided in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

Family data was collected for persons aged 15 years and over who were usual residents of private dwellings and whose family status could be derived. Certain exclusions typical to the Labour Force Survey were applied, such as excluding families who contain foreign diplomatic or foreign defence personnel stationed in Australia, or overseas visitors on temporary visas.

Persons interviewed in the Labour Force Survey who were classed as visitors to private dwellings, and those living in non-private dwellings (including hotels, motels, hospitals and other institutions) were also excluded. After these exclusions are applied, the estimates in this publication cover approximately 83% of the survey sample.

From October 2008, the method of producing family estimates from the Labour Force Survey was improved to include the following:

- an expanded scope to include households containing permanent members of the Australian defence forces that are usually excluded from labour force estimates;
- an increased range of families in the LFS sample contributing to the family estimates; and
- improvements to the weighting method by utilising independent population benchmarks (of persons and households), ensuring the estimates more closely reflect the Australian population.

For more information, see the Information Paper: Improvements to Family Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, 2008 (cat. no. 6224.0.55.002).

The Labour Force Survey Estimates are calculated in such a way as to sum to independent estimates of the civilian population aged 15 years and over (population benchmarks). These population benchmarks are based on Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data. Generally, revisions are made to population benchmarks for the LFS following the final rebasing of population estimates to the latest five yearly Census of Population and Housing, or when the need arises.

From February 2009 Labour Force Survey estimates have been compiled from population

benchmarks based on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. Revisions were applied to the LFS population benchmarks in the July 2010 and November 2012 issues to take into account the latest available population estimates. The latest revision undertaken in December 2012 is not reflected in the estimates presented in this issue.

Changes to the LFS population benchmarks impact primarily on the magnitude of the Labour Force Survey estimates (i.e. employment and unemployment) that are directly related to the underlying size of the population. For more details on population benchmarks, see the Explanatory Notes in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) and for details about the revisions made, see the article in the November 2012 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) and the article in the September 2010 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

Glossary

GLOSSARY

This publication, Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families (cat. no. 6224.0.55.001) is produced from data collected in the June 2012 Labour Force Survey. It includes detailed family data not featured in the monthly Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) or Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) publications.

Since these products are all based on data collected in the Labour Force Survey, the Glossary of publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) is relevant to all three publications. Additional information is provided in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001) and Labour Force Survey Standard Products and Data Item Guide (cat. no. 6103.0)

The following glossary items are provided as they relate specifically to family characteristics.

Child

A person of any age who is a natural, adopted, step, or foster son or daughter of a couple or lone parent, usually resident in the same household. A child is also any individual under 15 years, usually resident in the household, who forms a parent-child relationship with another member of the household. This includes otherwise related children under 15 years and unrelated children under 15 years.

In order to be classified as a child, the person can have no partner or child of his or her own usually resident in the household.

There are three types of child identified in the 'Relationship in household' classification:

- Child under 15 years
- Dependent student
- Non-dependent child

The differentiation of children into these three types is based upon the dependency criterion and is designed to identify families with different structures and needs. Dependency as used in these standards refers to economic dependency and is applied only to the population of people who could be described as 'children'. It is thus not intended to measure an aged or disabled person's dependency.

See also Dependent Child and Non-dependent Child.

Couple Relationship

A couple relationship is defined as two people usually residing in the same household who share a social, economic and emotional bond usually associated with marriage and who consider their relationship to be a marriage or marriage-like union. This relationship is identified by the presence of a registered marriage or de facto marriage.

A 'couple relationship' includes same-sex couples.

Dependant

A dependant is a family member who is either:

- under 15 years of age;
- aged 15–19 years and attending school or aged 15–24 years and attending a tertiary education institution full time (i.e. dependent students)

In order to be classified as a dependant, the person must have no partner or child of his/her own usually resident in the household. A separate family in the household is formed in this instance.

Dependent Student

A full time student aged 15-24 years, living in the same usual residence as his or her natural, step, foster or adoptive parent.

Family

Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.

Consider, for example, if two elderly brothers are living with the family of the daughter of one of the brothers. The daughter's family forms the basic family of the household and the two brothers are both allocated to this family unit as related individuals. The two brothers do not

form a separate family in their own right in addition to the daughter's family, because they are related to a couple family or one-parent family already present in the household. However, if the two brothers were living in a dwelling with a family to whom they were not related, they would then form a family in their own right and be classified as an 'other family'.

See also 'other families'.

Family Composition

The categories for family composition are:

- Couple family
 - Couple family with dependants
 - Couple family with children under 15 years
 - Couple family without children under 15 years, but with dependent students
 - Couple family without dependants
 - Couple family without dependants, but with children 15 years or older (ie non-dependent child)
 - Couple family without children
- One parent family
 - One parent family with dependants
 - One parent family with children under 15 years
 - One parent family without children under 15 years, but with dependent students
 - One parent family without dependants, but with children 15 years or older (ie non-dependent child)
- Other families

Father

The male parent with dependants and/or children. The relationship between a father and a child/dependant can be formed via a natural, adoptive, step, foster or child dependency relationship.

Household

One or more persons usually resident in the same private dwelling.

Husband/ Head

A person in a couple relationship with another person usually resident in the same household. The couple relationship may be in either a registered or de facto marriage and includes same-sex couples.

Jobless Family

A jobless family is a family where no persons in the family aged 15 years or over are employed. This includes dependants.

In a jobless family, all of the family members are either unemployed and/or not in the labour force.

Families that have no employed members but do have members that are classified as undetermined in the scope of the labour force survey, such as members of the permanent Australian defence force, are not included in the number of jobless families.

Lone Parent family

See One Parent family.

Mother

A female parent with dependants and/or children. The relationship between a mother and a child/dependant can be formed via a natural, adoptive, step, foster or child dependency relationship.

Non-dependent Child

Non-dependent children are defined as children over the age of 15 years who are not studying full-time.

In order to be classified as a child, the person must have no partner or child of his/her own usually resident in the household. A separate family in the household is formed in this instance.

The types of parent-child relationships which can be formed are via a natural, adoptive, step, or foster relationship.

Dependency, as used in these classifications, refers to economic dependency and is only applied to the part of the population that can be described as 'children'.

The dependency criterion is based on the barriers to full time employment: age and student status. Essentially, once a child turns 15 years and becomes eligible to be included in the labour force, they lose their dependency status unless they are attending school or a tertiary educational institution full-time, are aged 15 to 24 years old and live in the same household as their parents/ guardian.

See also Child.

Non-private Dwelling

An establishment which provides a communal type of accommodation, such as a hotel,

motel, hospital or other institution. Family data is not collected from non-private dwellings.

Not determined

Where a person has an unknown labour force status, or were permanent members of the Australian defence force (out of scope for labour force survey).

One Parent family

A family consisting of a lone parent with at least one dependent or non-dependent child (regardless of age) who is also usually resident in the family. This family type may or may not include other related individuals.

Opposite-sex Couple

Two persons of the opposite sex who are in a couple relationship and are usually resident in the same household.

Other Families

A family of related individuals residing in the same household. These individuals do not form a couple or parent-child relationship with any other person in the household and are not related to a couple or one parent family in the household.

If two brothers, for example, are living together and neither is a partner, a lone parent or a child to someone else in the household, and neither is related to any person in the household who is in a couple or one-parent family, then they are classified as an other family. However, if the two brothers share the household with the daughter of one of the brothers and her husband, then both brothers are attached to the couple family and classified as other related individuals.

Private Dwelling

A residential structure which is self-contained, owned or rented by the occupants, and intended solely for residential use. A private dwelling may be a flat, part of a house, or even a room, but can also be a house attached to, or rooms above shops or offices. Family data is only collected from private dwellings.

Relationship in Household

The relationship of each person to the family reference person, or where the person is not

part of a family that person's relationship to the household reference person.

Same-sex Couple

Two persons of the same sex who are in a couple relationship and are usually resident in the same household.

Social Marital Status

Social marital status is the relationship status of an individual with reference to another person who is usually resident in the household. A marriage exists when two people live together as husband and wife, or partners, regardless of whether the marriage is formalised through registration. Individuals are, therefore, regarded as married if they are in a de facto marriage, or if they are living with the person to whom they are registered as married.

Tertiary Education Institution

A Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other educational institution, excluding primary schools and secondary schools (i.e. High School).

Usual Resident

A person who usually lives in that particular dwelling and regards it as their own or main home.

Wife/Partner

A person in a couple relationship with another person usually resident in the same household. The couple relationship may be in either a registered or de facto marriage and includes same-sex couples.

Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

IN THIS SECTION

Institutional Environment

Relevance
Timeliness
Accuracy
Coherence
Interpretability
Accessibility

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

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RELEVANCE

This collection presents information about the labour force status and other characteristics of families. The information is based on data collected in the national monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

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TIMELINESS

The Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families is based on data collected from the June Labour Force Survey each year. The results obtained from this data are usually released six months after the collection period.

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ACCURACY

The Labour Force Survey is based on a sample of private dwellings (approximately 29,000 houses, flats etc) and non-private dwellings, such as hotels and motels. The sample covers about 0.33% of the Australian civilian population aged 15 years or over. The Labour Force Survey is designed primarily to provide estimates of key labour force statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

Annual family estimates are produced from the data collected in the June Labour Force Survey, but do not include people interviewed in non-private dwellings and those who were visitors to private dwellings. Those included in the estimates covered 83% of the survey sample.

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: non-sampling error and sampling error.

Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. Non-sampling error also arises because information cannot be obtained from all persons selected in the survey. The Labour Force Survey receives a high level of cooperation, with an average response rate for the last year being 96%.

Sampling error occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all dwellings in the survey is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three (66%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

Standard errors are discussed further in Technical Note - Standard Errors. The standard error of annual family estimates may be calculated by using the spreadsheet contained in Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

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COHERENCE

The ABS has been producing the **Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families** since November 1974. While seeking to provide a high degree of consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey, sound survey practice requires careful and continuing maintenance and development to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of the collection.

From October 2008, the method of producing family estimates from the Labour Force Survey was improved to include the following:

- an expanded scope to include households containing permanent members of the Australian defence forces that are usually excluded from labour force estimates;
- an increased range of families in the LFS sample contributing to the family estimates; and
- improvements to the weighting method by utilising independent population benchmarks (of persons and households), ensuring the estimates more closely reflect the Australian population.

Estimates back to August 2004 were revised using the new method of estimation. For more information, see the Information Paper: Improvements to Family Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, 2008 (cat. no. 6224.0.55.002).

The Labour Force Survey Estimates are calculated in such a way as to sum to independent estimates of the civilian population aged 15 years and over (population benchmarks). These population benchmarks are based on Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data. Generally, revisions are made to population benchmarks for the LFS following the final rebasing of population estimates to the latest five yearly Census of Population and Housing, or when the need arises.

From February 2009 Labour Force Survey estimates have been compiled from population benchmarks based on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. Revisions were applied to the LFS population benchmarks in the July 2010 and November 2012 issues to take into account the latest available population estimates. The latest revision undertaken in December 2012 is not reflected in the estimates presented in this issue.

Changes to the LFS population benchmarks impact primarily on the magnitude of the Labour Force Survey estimates (i.e. employment and unemployment) that are directly related to the underlying size of the population. For more details on population benchmarks, see the Explanatory Notes in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) and for details about the revisions made, see the article in the November 2012 issue of Labour Force, Australia

(cat. no. 6202.0) and the article in the September 2010 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

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INTERPRETABILITY

The Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families release contains a summary of findings (Australian Families, Couple Families, One Parent Families, Jobless Families, and Dependants aged 15 to 24 years) to aid interpretation of the results of the survey. Explanatory notes, a technical note, a glossary and an explanation of the terms 'family' and 'dependant' (in What is a Family?) are also included to further aid in the interpretation of the results. Details of the methodology and concepts used are also provided in a separate Information Paper: Improvements to Family Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, 2008 (cat. no. 6224.0.55.002).

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ACCESSIBILITY

The main products from this collection are an Excel spreadsheet summary and a series of SuperTABLE Data Cubes (available in Downloads) that are released electronically via the ABS website. Additional data may be available on request.

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For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070, email client.services@abs.gov.au or Labour Force on Canberra (02) 6252 6525, email labourforce@abs.gov.au

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Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

This data cube has been updated to include data for years prior to 2012.

Technical Note - Standard Errors (Technical Note)

TECHNICAL NOTE - STANDARD ERRORS

STANDARD ERRORS

The estimates in this publication are based on information gained from the occupants of a sample survey of dwellings. Because the entire population is not surveyed, the published estimates are subject to sampling error. The most common way of quantifying such sampling error is to calculate the standard error for the published estimate or statistic. For more information, see the Reliability of Estimates section of the Explanatory Notes of publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

To illustrate, let us say the published level estimate for couple families with children aged 0–4 years is 950,000 and the associated standard error is 15,000. The standard error is

then used to interpret the level estimate of 950,000. For instance, the standard error of 15,000 indicates that:

- There are approximately two chances in three (66%) that the real value falls within the range 935,000 to 965,000 ($950,000 \pm 15,000$)
- There are approximately 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the real value falls within the range 920,000 to 980,000 ($950,000 \pm 30,000$).

The real value in this case is the result we would obtain if we could enumerate the total population.

The ABS considers that estimates with a relative standard error of 25% or more may be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

To determine if an item has a relative standard error of 25% or more, in SuperTABLE, right click in the centre of the table, select annotate cells - standard annotations, and select 'Annotate RSE cut-off values'.

To indicate those cells in spreadsheets with a relative standard error of 25% or more, annotations have been applied.

Additional information on how standard errors for LFS person level estimates are produced is available in Labour Force Survey Standard Errors (cat. no. 6298.0). A spreadsheet that calculates standard errors for annual family estimates is available in Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).